

SOCCER

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Does The Ball Effect Play ?

A very old, but ever new, story of a match in which the play took the wrong turning, relates how, eventually, the ball was kicked high over the stand, with the result that play was held up and the spectators had nothing to shout about. To cut the silence came a loud voice with this appeal: "Never mind the ball, get on with the game."

That story comes back to mind occasionally in these days, from matches in which we get the impression that the ball is not the primary objective. All this, of course, is just facetious nonsense. The ball does matter, and at this period of the year, especially the thought sometimes occurs to me that we don't give as much attention to the actual ball as we might, with advantage to the game.

I wonder how many people could tell, off-hand, what is the regulation size and weight of a football as laid down in the rules. Confession being good for one, at this time of the year, let me confess forthwith that I was not sure about the size, weight, etc., of a properly constituted football until I looked up the book of rules. There it is laid down that the circumference of the ball shall not be more than 28 and not less than 27 inches.

We may take it that the manufacturer of this all-important implement of the game sees to it that the balls they turn out comply with the laws.

Is The Test Applied:

The rules also state that at the start of a match, the ball shall not be more than 16 ounces in weight, or less than 14 ounces. Having reminded myself about the size and weight of a "legal" football, the wonder arose in my mind as to whether there is any systematic check. The referee gets the ball prior to the start of a match.

What I suppose happens, in practice, is that the referee takes a good look at the ball first of all to see whether it is round. Then he squeezes it between his hands, or applies his thumbs as a test whether it is blown up to a satisfactory pressure. The ball having passed these tests, as applied by the referee, he takes it out to the middle and on goes the game.

Interesting Suggestion

It strikes me as rather strange that the rules of the game merely stress the weight of the ball at the start of the game. If it is considered important that the ball be of a certain weight when play begins, the obvious conclusion must be that it should remain more or less that weight throughout the match. But we know it doesn't remain the same weight in slushy, muddy days.

There have been times within the last few weeks when some of the strongest of footballers have found the ball too heavy to be propelled the average desirable distance.

Some teams prefer a heavy ball to a comparatively light one. In any case, would it not be more in keeping with the spirit of the law regarding the ball if a different—and clean one—was used periodically throughout a match on those days when the ball becomes like so much lead?

Attached to this question is the size and weight of the ball there is a matter of inflation. Here again a wayward thought jumps into my argumentative mind. There is no mention in the laws about the inflation of the ball. In certain circumstances the ball blown up too hard is as bad as a ball not blown up hard enough. We have all experienced the ball so blown up that it bounces almost beyond effective control.



RESULTS AT A GLANCE

First Division

Brighton 2 (Marone 2) d. Sunshine United 1 (Harridan)
Yallourn 6 d. Prahran 1
Box Hill 4 (Hutchinson 3, Gravell) d. Moreland 0.
Park Rangers 1 (Wilson) d. Western Suburbs

Second Division

Coburg 4 d. Ringwood 1.
South Yarra 2 d. South Melb. United 0.
Bradford 5 d. Northcote 1.
Preston 2 (Nash, Crampvoetts) d. Hakoah J.R.C. 1 (Meyer).

Third Division

Brighton 4 (Wake 2, Donaldson, Brown) d. Metters 2 (Purdon 2).
Heidelberg "A" 8 d. Heidelberg "B" 0.
Yarraville 5 d. Macedonians 3.
Woodlands 1 d. Williamstown 0.

First Division Reserves

Brighton 5 (Lowe 2, Walker, Finney, Crampvoetts) d. Sunshine United 0.
Prahran 6 d. Yallourn 1.
Moreland 3 d. Box Hill 2 (Burfoot, Stewart).
Park Rangers 6 d. Western Suburbs 1.

Second Division Reserves

South Yarra 4 (Baxter 2, Vosper, Evans) d. South Melbourne United 2 (Gilchrist 2).
Hakoah J.R.C. 3 (Migdalik 2, Sayer) d. Preston 2 (McKerran 2).
Coburg v. Ringwood, result not to hand.
Bradford v. Northcote, no result to hand.

Under 19 Division

Preston 2 (McNiece, Peachey) d. South Yarra nil.
Park Rangers 4 d. Prahran 3.
Yallourn 2 d. Western Suburbs 1.

Note.—The remaining two games in this division were postponed owing to the Cup-tie replay, in which Box Hill defeated Coburg 2-1.

Under 17 Division

South Melbourne United 4 (Stott 2, Thwaites, Prest) d. Brighton 3 (Shaw, Farrow, Taylor).
Preston 10 d. Coburg 0.
Box Hill versus Sunshine United, no result to hand.

Under 15 Division

Preston 3 (Tindill 3) d. Sunshine United 0.
South Melbourne United 11 (Stiles 5, Simpson 3, Forfar, Denny, James) d. Ringwood nil.
Northcote defaulted against Box Hill.



AUSSIES GOING SOCCER-DAFT

(Extract from a Scottish Paper, April Issue)

The soccer season just opened in Australia will continue until September, and will be the biggest in the history of the 67 years history of the code in Australia.

The cancellation of the Dundee tour this season, writes our Sydney correspondent, has greatly disappointed officials and followers, but a visit by the Chinese Olympic team, and Australian tours to New Zealand and New Caledonia are expected to compensate for the cancellation.

The Australian Soccer Association have declined requests from Canada, Holland, Malaya and Singapore to visit Australia this year, but have arranged to send an Australian team to South Africa next year.

The Chinese team will play six matches in Australia before leaving on May 19th for New Zealand from where it will fly to America and on to London.

Australia will strongly support a move to arrange soccer tours between Britain and the Dominions at the Empire conference to be held in London in August.

(It has been said that the Chinese Olympic team will visit Australia on its way back from the London games.—Ed.)

HOW THEY STAND

First Division

Club					Goals	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pt.
Sunshine United	10	8	1	1	37	12 17
Box Hill	10	6	2	2	33	21 14
Brighton	10	5	2	3	25	19 12
Park Rangers	10	4	2	4	16	20 10
Prahran	10	3	2	5	22	30 8
Yallourn	10	3	1	6	33	35 7
Moreland	10	3	1	6	19	24 7
Western Suburbs	10	1	3	6	10	34 5

Second Division

Club					Goals	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pt.
Adford	10	7	3	0	29	5 17
South. Melb. United	10	6	2	2	31	12 14
South Yarra	10	5	2	3	29	15 12
Coburg	10	5	1	4	31	23 11
Hakoah J.R.C.	10	5	1	4	20	17 11
Preston	10	4	1	5	22	34 9
Ringwood	10	1	1	8	11	34 3
Northcote	10	1	1	8	11	44 3

Third Division

Club					Goals	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pt.
Heidelberg "A"	8	6	1	1	46	7 13
George Cross	7	6	1	0	23	7 13
Melb. University	7	5	2	0	37	7 12
Yarraville	7	5	0	2	22	22 10
Olympic	6	4	1	1	15	9 9
Woodlands	8	3	2	3	16	19 8
Williamstown	8	3	1	4	17	24 7
Brighton	8	3	0	5	22	26 6
Macdonians	8	2	1	5	12	24 5
Metters	8	1	1	6	11	22 3
Yent	7	1	0	6	7	29 2
Heidelberg "B"	8	1	0	7	6	38 2

NOTE.—The Olympic versus George Cross match did not take place last Saturday and will be played today. Regent Club defaulted last Saturday against University. This match not yet included in above ladder.

First Division Reserves

Club					Goals	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pt.
Brighton	10	8	2	0	47	9 18
Prahran	10	7	1	2	37	20 15
Park Rangers	6	2	2	2	37	16 14
Western Suburbs	5	0	5	5	29	46 10
Box Hill	10	4	1	5	38	23 9
Yallourn	10	3	1	6	27	41 7
Moreland	10	3	1	6	20	37 7
Sunshine United	10	0	0	10	9	52 0

Second Division Reserves

Club					Goals	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pt.
South Yarra	9	9	0	0	36	9 18
South Melb. United	10	8	0	2	52	12 16
Bradford	9	6	0	3	27	14 12
Preston	10	3	2	5	16	19 8
Hakoah J.R.C.	9	3	1	5	7	19 7
Ringwood	9	2	0	7	8	36 4
Coburg	7	1	1	5	5	15 3
Northcote	7	1	0	6	6	33 2

Under 19 Division

Club					Goals	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pt.
Brighton	9	9	0	0	46	4 18
Park Rangers	10	8	0	2	46	10 16
Yallourn	10	7	1	2	30	10 15
Preston	10	5	1	4	26	19 11
Coburg	9	3	3	3	16	19 9
Box Hill	9	3	1	5	22	23 7
Western Suburbs	9	3	1	5	21	28 7
Prahran	10	2	2	6	19	32 6
Hakoah J.R.C.	8	2	1	5	14	31 5
South Yarra	10	0	0	10	2	66 0

Under 17 Division

Club					Goals	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pt.
South Melb. United	10	9	0	1	39	9 18
Preston	10	9	0	1	39	12 18
Brighton	10	6	0	4	32	15 12
Sunshine United	9	2	0	7	16	30 4
Box Hill	9	2	0	7	14	30 4
Coburg	10	1	0	9	4	48 2

Under 15 Division

Club					Goals	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pt.
South Melb. United	8	7	1	0	68	5 15
Preston	8	6	2	0	37	4 14
Brighton	8	5	1	2	36	11 11
Box Hill	8	3	0	5	6	31 6
Sunshine United	8	2	0	6	11	48 4
Ringwood	7	1	0	6	6	39 2
Northcote	5	0	0	5	0	26 0

NOTE.—Northcote defaulted on Saturday against Box Hill. This match not included in above ladder.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

Some More Interesting Exercises

This week we shall have some more advanced practice and exercises, so I want you to get a fellow player, or friend to practice with.

First stand 30 to 40 yards away from one another, and when you receive the ball from your colleague endeavour to kick it back on the volley, or half volley. This teaches you to hit a moving ball which is one of the hardest things to do correctly. Also try to place it back to him with the side foot as a pass, using the inside and outside of the foot. This teaches correct passing of the moving ball. Fullbacks cannot get too much of this. It is the finest of all forms of practice. Try to place the ball where you wish it to go. You may have to take a half step back, or forward, to get to the ball just off the ground for the volley or just as it hits the ground for the half volley. The half step backward or forward is a very difficult operation and few professionals can do it.

For the next exercise get your friend to kick the ball to you and try to take it with

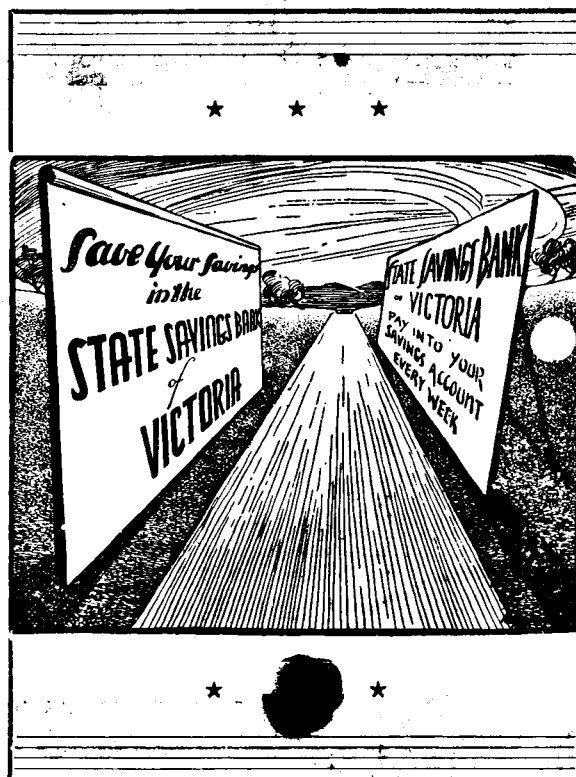
your chest, bringing it down to your feet so that it will be immediately under control. If this done correctly you will have a great advantage; such things may not seem worth while, but if you want to get to the top of the tree they are very essential. I am not asserting that these exercises will get you there alone. They will greatly assist you however.

Here is another exercise. When the ball is kicked towards you try to bring it under control with the foot while the ball is a foot or so off the ground. Just as the ball gets to the foot let the foot go towards the ground at the same speed as the ball. If you can perfect this you will have the ball under control quicker than the player who waits for it to come to the ground first.



SCREEN PUBLICITY

During the forthcoming week the Association's screen slide will be shown at "Moonee Theatre," Moonee Ponds, and "Empress Theatre," Prahran.



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